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PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK RUEHMOS  
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P 261353Z MAY 06  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6025  
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHAK/USDAO ANKARA TU PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:PDUSDP/ISA:EUR/ISA:NESA// PRIORITY  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5// PRIORITY  
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/425ABS IZMIR TU//CC// PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU PRIORITY  
RUEPGAB/MNF-I C2X BAGHDAD IZ PRIORITY

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2031  
TAGS: [PTER](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#) [IR](#)  
SUBJECT: TURKEY/IRAQ: SMALL-SCALE ACTIVITY ON BORDER

REF: A. ANKARA 2903 AND PREVIOUS

- [1](#)B. ANKARA 2876
- [1](#)C. ANKARA TU 3032 (USDAO ANKARA IIR 6 898 0298 06)
- [1](#)D. NGA NES WASHINGTON DC SERIAL IP0600051 (DTG 242119Z MAY 06)

Classified By: DCM Nancy McEldowney for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (S/REL USA, GBR, AUS, CAN) Turkish Special Forces Headquarters near the Iraq border have confirmed that Turkish forces have fired mortars against PKK forces on two occasions (May 16 and 20) just across the border. The military also claims to have received small arms fire and indirect fire (NFI) in separate incidents on May 19 from PKK terrorists at or near the border. Turkish Special Forces further claim that a May 12 firing of two mortar rounds near Kani Masi (see ref b) was the result of a Jandarma training accident (there were no casualties). Special Forces maintain that it is standard procedure to engage any group of persons attempting to cross the border in these mountainous border regions. Such persons are assumed to be PKK terrorists or smugglers and, the military asserts, the region in question is otherwise uninhabited by civilians (see ref c).

[1](#)2. (S/NF) NGA reporting suggests that Turkey continues to deploy troops in the southeast to carry out counterinsurgency operations within Turkey. There is no indication of large movements of troops toward the border. A separate NGA report (ref d) indicates that Turkey has deployed artillery pieces along the Turkey-Iraq border in slightly greater number than it did in 2005. This has been normal practice for the Turkish military during periods of PKK violence. NGA assesses that the placement of these artillery pieces indicate that the Turkey-Iraq-Iran tri-border area could be a focal point of counterinsurgency activity this year.

[1](#)3. (S/REL USA, GBR, AUS, CAN) In our view, these small-scale incidents near the border do not foreshadow a Turkish cross-border operation (CBO). They are, we believe, more or less business as usual along a poorly demarcated, mountainous border which the military is trying to seal against terrorist infiltration. However, as we have pointed out previously, a spectacular PKK attack in Turkey could be an immediate catalyst for a large-scale CBO. Steadily mounting PKK

violence, which is a current reality, will also mean a buildup of pressure on the GOT to act.

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